

REMARKS

The Official Action dated October 30, 1997 has been received and its contents carefully noted. Filed herewith is a *Request for Three Month Extension of Time*, which extends the statutory period for response to April 30, 1998. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that this response is timely filed.

The Claims including Claim 42 have been amended to respond, inter alia to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph.

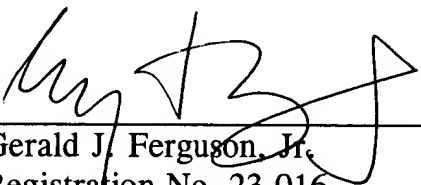
As illustrated in Fig. 3 of the subject application, an inlet 15 for injecting a liquid crystal is provided and a pair of substrates are substantially aligned with each other on a side of the inlet 15 (the left side in the case of Fig. 3). With respect to the rejections based on Matsuo, an inlet 13 for injecting a liquid crystal is provided but it is not suggested in Matsuo that a pair of substrates are aligned with each other on a sealed side. With respect to the rejection based on Sawatsubashi, an inlet 108a for injecting a liquid crystal is provided but a pair of substrates are not aligned with each other on the side of the inlet 108a. Therefore, the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 25, 30, 35, and 40-42 is distinguished over the cited references since a pair of substrates are substantially aligned with each other on a side of the inlet in these claims.

In this regard, note that if an inlet for injecting a liquid crystal is provided at a periphery of a pair of substrates and the pair of substrates are not aligned with each other at the side of the inlet, the liquid crystal is prone to come into contact with a side of at least one of the pair of substrates. Therefore, deterioration is prone to occur at such side of the substrates. For this reason, it is urged the present invention as claimed in independent claims 25, 30, 35, and 40-42 is advantageous and patentably distinguishable over the cited references.

The indication of allowable subject matter in claims 12 and 17 is noted with appreciation and these claims have been rewritten as new claims 43 and 44.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is urged this case is now in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Gerald J. Ferguson, Jr.
Registration No. 23,016

Sixbey, Friedman, Leedom & Ferguson, P.C.
2010 Corporate Ridge, Suite 600
McLean, Virginia 22102
(703) 790-9110